A. Uniqueness: UN sanctions regimes use expert panels to investigate war-torn regions and make policy recommendations. Alix Boucher and Victoria Holt[[1]](#footnote-0) write,

**“**United Nations **Panels of Experts are** small, civilian, **fact-finding teams appointed by the**

United Nations **(UN) Security Council to monitor the effectiveness of the targeted sanctions it imposes on peace spoilers in war-torn regions.** The Security Council has increasingly tried to hinder these spoilers with such limited sanctions—**[such as]** travel bans, asset freezes, and **embargoes on trading arms, diamonds, and timber. In turn, the Council has sent these investigative Panels to report on the implementation of these sanctions in a region, to consider the role of natural resource exploitation, and increasingly, to offer analysis on the nature of conflict** since the 1990s. **The role of these expert groups is increasingly important** and integral **to how the United Nations** monitors conflict and **tries to manage peace spoilers today**.**”**

B. Link: The affirmative bans economic sanctions, eliminating both UN sanctions regimes and the associated Panels of Experts.

C. Impact: UN sanctions, under the guidance of Panels of Experts, are key to peacebuilding post-conflict. Boucher and Holt 2

**“**These questions have also taken on more importance than a decade ago. Today UN **Panels of Experts offer** analytically useful **portraits of conflict zones, touching on political dynamics, struggles with the use of natural resources, [and] the gaps in state and regional governance,** and sometimes the socio-economic conditions following the imposition of UN targeted sanctions. As the international community has increasingly focused on strategies for peacebuilding, **the experts’ reports have become** more **instructive,** and potentially useful, **for those concerned with post-conflict reconstruction and with building the rule of law.** An important aspect of **Panel reports** is their identification of gaps in institutional capacity to monitor borders, to halt trade in conflict-fuelling commodities, and to **lead public ministries that can manage these crucial sectors and ensure compliance with sanctions. This can serve the UN and member states who seek strategies to help rebuild such institutions, and hinder the spoilers that fuels conflict.”**

This is empirically verified. Boucher and Holt 3

**“The Panels of Experts on Sierra Leone and Liberia played an essential role in revealing how** corruption and **illegal trade in** arms**, timber and diamonds helped fuel** **the** brutal 14-year **civil war in Liberia.** The Sierra Leone Panel’s report played an important role in providing the Security Council with the grounds to impose sanctions on Liberia. In turn, the Panel on Liberia helped identify the ongoing causes of conflict and highlighted those dynamics in its reports. The Liberia Panel’s reports document the government’s policies toward lifting the sanctions and the progress the country is making in fighting corruption and creating a government that, rather than enriching its leaders, serves the population. The Liberia Panel, particularly its reports and recommendations, continue to impact the post-conflict efforts for governance and peace today.

**The Panel of Experts on Liberia,** in its June 2007 report, **argued that despite loss of income, sanctions had nonetheless benefited Liberia in the long-term:**

*It could now be argued that the most significant positive impact of the* ***sanctions, in addition to ending the factional fighting over the resources,*** *is that the Government and its international partners were* ***compelled*** *to undertake* ***a systematic and comprehensive set of reforms in the natural resources sector. This involved a wide range of stakeholders that helped to ensure a comparatively transparent and participatory reform process, thus laying the foundation for enhancing the role of civil society*** *and the local communities in helping to steer and monitor the sector in the future.*

At that time, the Panel assessed progress being made in reforming the timber sector and concluded that **‘without United Nations sanctions, it is unlikely that the comprehensive forestry reforms would have occurred.**’514 The Panel cautioned, however, that much work remains to be done and recommended that “in order to send a clear message that the culture of impunity is over, the Ministry of Justice must pursue the prosecution for misappropriation of those identified in the EC-funded audit of FDA, even though they no longer work at FDA.”515

**Furthermore,** recent developments in Liberia suggest that the Panel truly played an important role. The Panel not only raised awareness about sanctions, but also in ensured that public officials behave with integrity and transparency. **The Panel is** perhaps **one of the only entities working in Liberia that can freely describe,** and provide often compelling evidence of, **instances of corruption, sanctions violations, and threats to peace** and the rule of law. **People in Liberia** reportedly **know that the Panel exists,** they **understand its mandate, and** many **read the reports.** Moreover, **the reports have led to legal action against many** NTGL **officials and** there is a perception that **the threat of exposure in Panel reports is also helping keep the** Johnson-Sirleaf **Administration honest.** In other words, Panel reports can give a complete picture of the situation in Liberia, by exposing gaps in capacity, while simultaneously offering recommendations to address them**.”**

The ability to address the underlying causes of conflict, and make institutional reforms to address them, is the most important impact in the round:

1. Failing to rectify the causes of conflict allows for continual outbursts of violence and instability. This is empirically supported by the harms associated with repeated emergence of civil wars and coups within many countries throughout the third world. Thus, in terms of absolute harm the most important objective is to address not individual conflicts, but their causes.
2. Institutional solutions, unlike temporary times of peace, create a framework for continued development of rule-of-law and non-violent recourse for harms unrelated to the central area of conflict. Thus, they can alleviate a wider range of harms.
3. The conflicts which sanctions stop from recurring have a massive humanitarian cost. Elizabeth Rogers[[2]](#footnote-1) writes, **“**A tide of worldwide violence lends this question urgency. **Civil and interstate violence around the globe has continued** **since the cold war's end**, dashing hopes for a peaceful post-cold war world. Since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 **new wars have erupted in** the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, Tajikistan, the Persian Gulf, Algeria, Rwanda, Burundi, **Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and older conflicts continued or intensified** in Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Peru, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Burma, and **elsewhere.** **In 1992**, the first year of the post-Soviet era, **there were twenty-nine wars**, more than in any year since 1945. **These wars killed some 460 thousand people in 1992 alone**, **and tamed millions into refugees.** Some 18.2 million refugees were in UN care and some twenty-five million people were categorized as "internally displaced" in 1992, **for a world total of 43.2 million displaced** **people**— a new all-time high.2 **Nearly all were displaced by war**. From 1980 to 1992 the number of new refugees, nearly all fleeing from war, increased by a million per year. **These wars** threaten the interests of the industrialized states as well as the developing world. They also **comprise a humanitarian disaster** that the advanced industrial countries and international organizations have a moral responsibility to address. They impose the cost of providing for refugees on the UN, neighboring states, the U.S. and western Europe. They threaten Western commerce in the Third World. Finally, **they pose the risk that their violence could widen to engulf others, eventually ensnaring states far from the area of the initial conflict.** Wars are like fire, sometimes spreading out of control in unpredictable ways. This gives all members of the international community an interest in preventing regional wars before they expand.**”**

1. “TARGETING SPOILERS: THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS PANELS OF EXPERTS” Report from the Project on Rule of Law in Post-Conflict Settings-Future of Peace Operations-January 2009-Stimson Center Report No. 64 [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Elizabeth S. Rogers, Associate, International Security Program. "Using Economic Sanctions to Prevent Deadly Conflict" Discussion Paper 96-02, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Univ. May 1996 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)